

REGISTRATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Name of Undertaking

The East Coast Trail Project
P.O. Box 400
Bay Bulls, NF
A0A 1C0

CEO and Principal Contact Person for purposes of Environmental Assessment

D.C.Peckham
Project Manager
Phone: 334-2977

The Undertaking

- The Project is upgrading a traditional coastal trail system from Pouch Cove to St. John's (a distance of approximately 42 kilometers) to create a continuous hiking trail.
- The trail is expected to have a positive impact on existing services and businesses, and also have a strong impact on future economic growth in the area.
- Local residents and visitors will have improved access to coastal natural, cultural and historical attractions.
- Construction undertaken will forestall water damage caused by trail use, protect sensitive environments (i.e. wetlands, stream crossings), and enhance the development of ecotourism opportunities in eastern Newfoundland.

DESCRIPTION OF THE UNDERTAKING

Geographical Location

- The East Coast Trail Project is developing a trail the width of approximately one meter in close proximity to the coastline, from Pouch Cove to St. John's, a distance of approximately 42 kilometers.
- The trail generally follows a time-tested route used by hunters, berry pickers, recreational users and other local residents.

- The trail has been shifted back from the coastline in areas where grades are too steep, or where increased use of the trail route might adversely affect the coastal environment.
- The trail under development has been classified as follows:
 - 23 km is located on crown land.
 - 2.5 km located on private land
 - 16 km located on municipal roadways and lanes.

Physical Features

- The major constructed physical features of the undertaking will be boardwalks, stairs and bridges (no in-water construction).
- Structures are only to be employed in instances where keeping the trail in its existing state may result in damage to the environment, or where user safety and comfort are an issue.
- Construction techniques and structures are designated to have minimal impact on the existing natural setting.
- Construction will occur on designated sites identified as likely to, or currently being, degraded by use (e.g. wet areas, stream bank, slopes).
- The trail will proceed, for the most part, through a wilderness setting with the addition of boardwalks, stairs and bridges only where necessary.
- An artist's conceptual drawing is not available.

Construction

- The construction will take place over the next three years
- The proposed start up date for on-trail construction is August 2002.
- The only potential sources of pollutants come from the use of generators and chainsaws (i.e. oil and gasoline).
- Work crews will be trained in the proper care and maintenance of these machines and on the proper action to take in dealing with pollution associated with their use (i.e. oil and gasoline).
- The East Coast Trail Project will not use chemically treated wood in its construction activities (i.e. CCA or creosote).
- Cutting is restricted by East Coast Trail Association (ECTA) standards to the removal of brush, tree limbs, dead falls, dying tree, and trees less than 4 inches in diameter that impede movement along the trail route.

Operation

- The trail will be a permanent facility.
- The only potential sources of pollutants during the trail's operation are litter and human waste.
- The trail will be operated and maintained by the ECTA, a volunteer, non-profit organization created for this function.
- Volunteer custodians and volunteer ECTA members will be responsible for trail clean-up and the reporting of trail conditions to the ECTA.
- The ECTA will be responsible for the maintenance of the trailbed, trail structures, campsites and latrines.

Occupations

The project expects to employ the following:

Volunteers serving as:

- Steering Committee
- Legal Committee
- Environmental Committee
- Monitoring Committee
- Custodian Committee
- Standards Committee
- Volunteer trail construction and maintenance crews

In addition the project expects to employ full time workers should a suitable funding arrangement be made in the future.

Project Related Documents

- East Coast Trail Association. May 2000. *Application for Funding for the East Coast Trail - Ft. Amherst to Cappahayden Components. This outline is similar to the activities planned for the Pouch Cove to St. John's trail section.*
- Registration for environmental assessment process for the East Coast Trail from Fort Amherst to Cappahayden.

Approval of the Undertaking

The main permits, licences, approvals, and other forms of authorization are listed below:

- The Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans
Authorization for works or undertakings affecting fish habitat (i.e. bridges)
Status: to be applied for

- Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
Department of Environment and Labour
Environmental approval for bridges
Status: to be applied for if need to build bridges as the trail is developed.
- Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
Department of Forestry
Permits for woodcutting
Status: will apply if and when woodcutting activity is to occur
- Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
Department of Forestry
Fire permits
Status: will apply when the work crews and ready to go into camp situations
- Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
Department of Municipal Affairs
Permit for any development outside of municipalities within 400 meters of any Highways
Status: will apply if trail falls within any designated area.
- Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
Department of Government Services and Lands
All incorporated municipalities from Portugal Cove to Pouch Cove
Licence to Occupy
Status: Approval granted
- Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
Department of Transportation
Permit for the use of two-way radios
Status: will apply when use of radios is necessary.

Schedule

The East Coast Trail Project is seeking approval by July 30, 2002
Tentative start date for construction is August 30, 2002
Work will be undertaken by volunteers until funding is received.

Funding

Funding will be sought from the following agencies:

- Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency

P.O. Box 1060

Station C

St. John's, NF

A1C 5M5

- Human Resources and Development Canada

P.O. Box 8548

St. John's, NF

A1B 3P3

Date: *original signed Oct. 17, 2001* Signature: *original signed by D. C. Peckham*